

Application No.: 10/717,676
Amendment filed on August 10, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated May 17, 2006

Docket No.: 8734.260.00-US

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Final Office Action dated May 17, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 18 and 19 are hereby amended. No new matter is added. Claims 1-19 are pending and claims 1-17 are withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, claims 18 and 19 are examined. Reexamination and reconsideration of the examined claims are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,208,690 to Hayashi et al. (hereinafter "Hayashi"). The rejection of claims 18 and 19 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 18 is allowable over Hayashi in that claim 18 recites a "display device including a plurality of thin transistors formed using a method" including, in part "crystallizing the amorphous silicon film to form a polycrystalline silicon film having laterally arranged silicon grains using a sequential lateral solidification crystallization method." Similarly, claim 19 is allowable over Hayashi in that claim 19 recites a "liquid crystal display panel including a plurality of thin transistors formed using a method" including, in part "crystallizing the amorphous silicon film to form a polycrystalline silicon film having laterally arranged silicon grains using a sequential lateral solidification crystallization method." Hayashi does not teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

On page 4 of the last Office Action, the Examiner states "features upon which applicant relies (i.e., particular characteristic of orientation and grain size of the polycrystalline silicon film) are not recited in the rejected claim(s)." Applicant herein amends claims 18 and 19 to recite that "the polycrystalline silicon film" has "laterally arranged silicon grains." As stated in Applicant's last Amendment, Hayashi merely discloses a polycrystalline silicon film and does not disclose the orientation of the grains in the film. See column 6, lines 19-37. Furthermore,

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Hayashi is silent with respect to “laterally arranged silicon grains” or a “sequential lateral solidification crystallization method.” Thus, it is neither inherent nor obvious in Hayashi that “the polycrystalline silicon film” has “laterally arranged silicon grains.” Accordingly, because Hayashi fails to teach or suggest these features of claims 18 and 19, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 18 and 19 are allowable over Hayashi.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: August 10, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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